



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
USAMI, Takayuki, et al

Serial Number: 09/966,389

Filed: September 27, 2001

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JUL 24 2003
TC 1700

Group Art Unit: 1742

Examiner: IP, SIKYIN

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 5086

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 21, 2003

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached. Note that all references were listed in a European Search Report. A copy of the European Search Report is also enclosed.

Among the references listed in the European Search Report, U.S. Patent No. 5,463,247 was filed as IDS on December 28, 2001, and EP 0440548 was filed as IDS on February 6, 2003, and therefore, the filing of the two documents is omitted.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits following the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in the above-identified patent application.

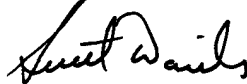
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/966,389

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures:

1. PTO-1449
2. References (9)
3. European Search Report

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PTO-1449	Atty. Docket No. 020960	Serial No. 09/966,389
	Applicant(s): USAMI, Takayuki, et al	
	Filing Date: September 27, 2001	Group Art Unit: 1742

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA	4,612,167	Watanabe et al.	09/16/1986	420 471	03/01/1985
_____	AB	4,656,003	Miyafuji et al.	04/07/1987	420 473	10/11/1985
_____	AC	5,846,346	Lee et al.	12/08/1998	148 433	11/26/1996
_____	AD	4,687,633	Miyafuji et al.	08/18/1987	420 481	01/07/1986
_____	AE	6,040,067	Sugawara et al.	03/21/2000	428 647	07/09/1997

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____	AF	EP 0 949 343	10/13/1999	Europe	N/A
_____	AG	EP 0 501 438	09/02/1992	Europe	N/A
_____	AH	JP 5-1367	01/08/1993	Japan	Yes (Abstract only)
_____	AI	JP 11-140569	05/25/1999	Japan	Yes (Abstract only)
_____	AJ				

OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____	AK	
_____	AL	
Examiner		Date Considered